

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 USSS-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CPR-02 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1914

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1262

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (REAGAN, RONALD)

SUBJECT: MELBOURNE VISIT OF GOVERNOR AND MRS. REAGAN
NOVEMBER 28-30.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: HARD WORKING SCHEDULE OF GOVERNOR AND MRS. REAGAN WAS SUCCESS FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE VICTORIAN RED CROSS, VICTORIA STATE GOVERNMENT HOSTS AND THE REAGANS PERSONALLY. DIGNITY COMBINED WITH WARMTH, A FIRM MESSAGE AND HIS INTEREST IN EXCHANGING IDEAS MELDED WITH ARRANGEMENT OF VICTORIA GOVERNMENT/RED CROSS AND GOOD PRESS IN THE NET, TO PRODUCE EXCELLENT RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS COVERAGE OF REAGAN VISIT NOVEMBER 28-30 WAS EXTENSIVE. TV EDITING-PRODUCING WAS GOOD, BALANCED AND FAVORABLE, GIVING UP TO 12MINUTES ON HALF-HOUR TV NEWS PROGRAMS. TV EDITING PERMITTED VIEW OF GOVERNOR REAGAN HANDLING WATERGATE AND OTHER QUESTIONS FIRMLY AND WELL. SHOWED THIS AMERICAN VIP AS MAN OF WARM SINCERITY, FIRM PRINCIPLE, AND KNOWLEDGE. RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS HERE GAVE FAVORABLE HEADLINE COVERAGE OF ARRIVAL, PURPOSE OF
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VISIT AND GOVERNOR'S PRESIDENTIAL POTENTIAL--SEASONED WITH

REFERENCES TO SECURITY PROCEDURES, ONE SMALL DEMONSTRATION AND NY TIMES STORY ON TRIP. MRS. REAGAN'S PRESS PLAYED UP WIFELY ROLE AND BALANCED RESPONSES TO DEVELOPMENTS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. VICTORIANS WERE PLEASED THAT REAGANS WERE VICE-REGAL GUESTS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

3. GOVERNOR CAME ACROSS WELL ALSO AT OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. THE THREE RED CROSS FUND-RAISING FUNCTIONS WERE WELL ATTENDED WITH BUSINESSMEN'S DINNER GIVING GOVERNOR STANDING OVATION. RED CROSS OFFICIALS ELATED WITH REAGAN RECEPTION AND FACT THAT OVER 1,000 PAYING GUESTS ATTENDED THEIR FUNCTIONS.

4. ARRANGEMENTS BY STATE GOVERNMENT WERE NEAR PERFECT, EXCEPT FOR SOME WEATHER, REFLECTING EXCELLENT STAFF WORK BY GOVERNOR REAGAN'S STAFF AND PREMIER'S OFFICE. POLICE DID USUAL FINE, COOPERATIVE JOB. PROCEDURES THROUGHOUT VISIT WENT OFF WITHOUT HITCH, INCLUDING FIRST NIGHT'S DINNER WHEN SOME 40 DEMONSTRATORS WITH USUAL PLACARDS STOOD NEAR ENTRANCE. GOOD STAFF WORK AND FACT GOVERNOR REAGAN OBVIOUSLY DID HIS OWN HOMEWORK FOR CONFERENCES AND FUNCTIONS, PRODUCED DESIRED RESULTS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. MEMBER OF GOVERNOR'S STAFF ALSO AIDED CAUSE BY MEETING WITH VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT'S "STATUTE LAW REVISION COMMITTEE" WHICH ASKED FOR OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS ITS LEGISLATION ON INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY IN LIGHT OF CALIFORNIA EXPERIENCE, AND IN PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE'S EXPECTED VISIT TO CALIFORNIA IN JULY 1974. SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREW PEACOCK SAID FAREWELL TO GOVERNOR AND MRS. REAGAN ON TARMAC DECEMBER 2. (PEACOCK PLANS TO VISIT U.S. EAST COAST FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER JANUARY 24, ENROUTE TO U.K. AND EUROPE.) END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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